programme on Maize in the four districts *viz.* Bulandshahar, Dcoria, Behraich and Lalitpur. The main objective of the sub-programme is to increase the production and productivity of maize through transfer of available technologies and agricultural practices to resource poor small and marginal farmers in the selected project areas for food security. Till date, an amount of Rs. 47.22 lakhs has been released to the State Government of U.P. under this sub-programme. Besides, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme named "Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)" is also in operation in all the States, including UP., which have potential for cultivation of maize with the objective of increasing production and productivity. Since the inception of the AMDP in 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 388.904 lakhs has been released till date to the State Government of U.P. for implementation of the scheme.

Rail tour packages for tourists

† *298. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have prepared special tour packages for the tourists visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above packages are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There are no separate tourist packages for tourists visiting India. However, special ticketing and reservation arrangements are offered to foreign tourists through Indrail passes.

Some of the packages which the foreign tourists can avail are as follows:

(i) Palace on Wheels.

(ii) Royal Orient Express.

(iii) Fairy Queen Express.

† Original notice of the question v/as received in Hindi.

(iv) Tourist coaches on Kalka-Shimla sector.

Tour packages are developed as per demand. Recently, comprehensive tourist packages have been developed for the tourists intending to visit Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh and Goa.

Admissions in KVs on recommendations

*299. SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI:

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while a Member of Parliament is empowered to nominate two children for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas located in his constituency/State under Special Dispensation Quota every session, a chairman of the local Vidyalaya Management Committee has been empowered to nominate two students for admission in his Kendriya Vidyalaya in each section of each class;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification, if any, therefore; and

(c) what is the maximum number of admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas, as a result of this order?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) It is a fact that M.Ps are empowered to nominate two children for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas located in their constituency/State under special dispensation quota every year. The Chairmen of the local Vidyalaya Management Committees can recommend admission of a maximum of two children per school per year (except class X and XII), if otherwise found eligible as per the provision of admission guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The maximum number of admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas as a result of the rule position in this regards can be 2872 as against annual admissions of the order of approximately 60000.